

Iowa State University, Morrill Hall
Morrill Road, facing east toward
central campus
Ames
Story County
Iowa

HABS No. IA-50

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85-AMES,
3-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY, MORRILL HALL

HABS No. IA-50

Location: Morrill Road, facing east toward central campus, Ames, Story

County, Iowa

Statement of Significance: Morrill Hall is significant as an early major campus building in which the scope and quality of professional architectural services and of the work of the general contractor were essentially what they are today for such buildings. The efficiency with which these services were performed was in sharp contrast with the great difficulties which had been experienced in the construction of the College Building of some twenty-five years earlier.

In architectural style the building is eclectic in its mixture of Romanesque arches and rock-faced stonework with architectural elements of the so-called Queen Anne style.

HISTORICAL INFORMATION

Physical History

1. Dates of erection: July 1890 - June 1891 (1, 7-17-90, p. 133; 1, 7-7-91, p. 271). Dedication, 16 June 1891 (12).
2. Architects: Josselyn and Taylor (1, 5-5-90, p. 123; 3)
Henry S. Josselyn (1845-1934) received his architectural training at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, in Europe, and in architectural offices in Chicago and Des

Moines. Eugene Hartwell Taylor (1855-1924) graduated from Grinnell College in 1875, where he had received preparatory training in architecture, and took supplementary studies at Massachusetts Institute of Technology. In 1882 the two men formed the partnership of Josselyn and Taylor and practiced for many years in Cedar Rapids, Iowa (15, pp. 328, 590, 591).

Architects for 1913 remodeling, Proudfoot, Bird and Rawson, Des Moines (4).

3. Original and subsequent owners: Iowa State Agricultural College and Farm, the name of which was changed in 1896 to Iowa State College of Agricultural and Mechanic Arts, and in 1959 to Iowa State University of Science and Technology.
4. Builders and suppliers, etc: O. J. King, general contractor (1, 7-17-90, p. 133). South-western Engineering Company of St. Louis, wiring (1, 7-18-90, p. 141).
5. Original plans and construction:
The Building Program.

"A building is needed suitably planned for museum and lecture rooms for the department of entomology, zoology, botany, and for lecture room for horticulture". Thus college president W. I. Chamberlain stated in his report in the Twelfth Biennial Report of the College for 1886-1887, and also described the overcrowding in the existing college facilities, in which some of the rooms had to be used for three or four conflicting purposes.

The wealth of the state had increased to the extent that further postponement of construction was, he emphasized, "unnecessary and unwise". President Chamberlain estimated the cost of the building at from \$12,000 to \$16,000. He believed that this money had to come from state appropriations. It was true that the College had received a large endowment under the Morrill Act of 1862, but the terms of accepting the land grant under that act explicitly stated that the funds derived from the grant, and the interest on those funds as well, could not be used to purchase, erect, preserve, or repair buildings. Chamberlain reasoned that the state's acceptance of the land grant constituted "a contract with the general government to erect and keep in repair all buildings necessary for the use of the College", in effect, that the state was obligated to provide the buildings. He also pointed out that it would be wise to do so, since there was considerable income from the grant as the result of careful and imaginative financial planning and management. Iowa's grant income, he believed, was second only to New York's (10, pp. 8-11, 13).

A new program for the building becomes evident in the request made by the College Board of Trustees in November 1889. At that time the Board asked the legislature to appropriate \$35,000 for a chapel, library, and museum building and for the remodeling of the main building. President Chamberlain's report in the Thirteenth Biennial

Report of 1888-1889 requested funds for the same purpose and in the same amount, with the added description of the building as fireproof (1, 11-14-89, p. 97; 11, p. 14). The chapel, library, and museum building is essentially what was built, and it included the laboratory facilities mentioned previously. In arguing for a new building Chamberlain noted that the present buildings limited the College enrollment to just under three-hundred students, but that the income from the land grant funds would allow an enrollment for four hundred. He held that the state had both a legal and a moral obligation to provide the necessary buildings so that the full four hundred students could be taught (12, pp. 13, 17, 18).

Further information on the building program can be obtained from President Chamberlain's report and in the report of Professor Herbert Osborn of the Department of Zoology, Entomology and Geology, as given in the Thirteenth Biennial Report. The plan of the new building, it appears, was a modification of the plan of a separate ladies' hall, museum, and biological building that had been developed some six years earlier.

(1) Library. This was considered a fire hazard and was to be removed from its present location in the College Building because there were student living quarters in that building. The Library should be placed in a separate building. No mention is made of protecting the valuable contents of the library from fire, oddly enough.

- (2) Chapel. The present chapel in the College Building was inadequate.
- (3) Music rooms. Piano practicing should take place there, not in the chapel, as was presently done. Sound isolation was desired.
- (4) Museum. This should be removed from the College Building, where there were student living quarters, because it was a fire hazard. The alcohol in which it was necessary to store museum specimens constituted the fire hazard, and a fireproof building was sought. The value of the museum collection was recognized, and protecting it was considered. The room should be large, well lighted, and connected to the laboratory and to the lecture room.
- (5) Rooms for general storage of specimens contained in alcohol, geological material, preparation of museum specimens, breeding of insects, etc. Basement or ground-floor location would be satisfactory.
- (6) Laboratory. A room for twenty or more students should be provided, with connections to the lecture room and the museum.
- (7) Lecture room. Connections to the laboratory and the museum were required in order to facilitate the use of specimens for illustrating classwork

in geology and zoology. Such use was presently inconvenient and time-consuming.

(8) Office (12, pp. 15, 50).

Architectural design.

Architect Taylor appeared before the Board of Trustees on 14 May 1890 and explained the drawings of the new building which his firm, Josselyn and Taylor, had prepared. The Board then moved that the new building and the remodeling of the College Building be the first work to be undertaken under the state appropriations (1, 5-14-90, pp. 118, 120). On the following day the architects submitted the following proposal to the Board:

We will furnish complete plans at a scale of four feet to one inch, larger scale diagrams and full sized details as necessary to fully explain all construction and complete written specifications giving description of all work for your proposed chapel building substantially as per sketches and memorandum shown this day.

All plans and specifications will be in triplicate, one set for the building committee, one set for the contractor and the originals kept in our own office.

We will secure bids and all necessary information and suggest that all correspondence be done through us, all being open to your inspection.

We will so prepare our work that bids can be taken on alternative use of materials and finish.

We advise the appointment of a local clerk of the works from among your professors perhaps, to keep closer watch of work and report to us.

We will visit the work on an average of twice per month and oftener if occasion occur through any fault of our own, at our own expense.

Any more visits desired by you to be at your expense at five dollars per diem and traveling expenses.

Our compensation to be five per cent on the cost of erection of the work. It is also agreed and understood that this five per cent commission shall be paid as follows.-

One third when the contract is let to the builder, one third on or before May 10th, 1891, and one third on or before October 10th, 1891.

In case bids for the work such as in your judgment you would be justified in accepting should exceed that portion of the appropriation which can in the judgment of the Board be used in the erection of the building, we expect and agree to modify the plans to meet the requirements at our own expense until such modified plans (following the design herewith submitted, substantially) shall be satisfactory to the Board and result in a contract within eighty days from this date or within such additional time as the Building Committee may determine, or no claim for compensation shall be made by us (1, 5-15-90, pp. 121, 122).

This proposal is essentially for professional architectural services as rendered now.

In addition to their proposal and sketches, the architects submitted the following memorandum, which is in the nature of an outline specification.

The design we submit for your chapel building contemplates one built in first class manner of first class materials which we feel confident can be erected for not over \$32,000, exclusive of the architect's fees.

To be built on concrete footings two feet below present surface of the site.

The grading up around building to same level as around Main building is not included, being understood as done by the college in removing the terrace earth in front of Main building.

All walls to be brick--those below grade laid in cement mortar.

Water tables and sills, fire wall copings, ventilators, flue copings and a belt in cornice of rock faced stone equal to Anamosa stone.

All outside walls made with air space. All partition walls of brick as far as possible.

Cornice and window arches and ornamental panels of molded brick laid in red mortar.

Remainder of brick local tile machine for face walls. Porch of best tin, main roof green slate of durable quality.

Casting, finials, turret, gutters, gable cornices and panels of galvanized iron. Outside steps of wood. Inside stairs of hardwood for treads, risers and railing.

Iron columns in basement and library, wood girders over them. Armory unfinished throughout. Remainder of basement has good cement floor and as little wood finish as possible.

All other floors (except balcony) double with paper between and finished floor of maple.

Stairways and Chapel wainscotted. Doors of first quality slightly molded and well paneled, standard fire doors each side of fire wall for each opening.

Windows all best American double strength glass.

Casings of first quality in keeping with exterior.

Wall plasterd on brick and left "rough cast" for kalsomining but this latter not included as it is best done later after walls are thoroughly cured.

Plain shelving for 12,000 volumes in library, four hundred opera chairs in chapel. Water pipes for two sinks.

Electric light wiring on two wire system for two-hundred forty lights.

Steam radiation piping from center plant and radiators (l, 5-15-90, pp. 122, 123).

Josselyn and Taylor's proposal was accepted, and they were given the commission. In addition, the Board decided that the building would be located north of the College Building, with the Building Committee to determine the exact location (l, 5-15-90, pp. 123, 124). Meeting two months later, the Board named the building Morrill Hall, after Justin S. Morrill, the author of the land grant act through which the College had been funded, and requested his presence at the dedication the following year (l, 7-17-90, p. 129).

Construction.

Contractors' proposals for construction were received by the Board at their meeting 17 July 1890. All but two of the proposals were rejected, leaving those of F. S. Whiting and O. J. King. The contract was awarded to King

on the basis of his bid, and he was required to furnish a bond of \$15,000 within a week. The amount of the contract was \$28,460 (1, 7-17-90, pp. 132, 133). Southwestern Engineering Company of Saint Louis was given the contract to wire the building for \$335 (1, 7-18-90, p. 141). Josselyn and Taylor were directed to prepare plans for a new boiler to heat the building (1, 7-18-90, p. 141). In January 1891 the heating contract was let (1, 1-8-90). On 16 June 1891 the Board moved to leave acceptance of the building to the architect, which he did on 24 June 1891 (1, 6-16-91, p. 260; 1, 7-7-91, p. 271). On 16 June 1891 the building was formally dedicated (12).

Use of the building.

The College President's report in the Fourteenth Biennial Report of 1890-1891 describes the use of the building.

"The appropriations made by the last legislature were most timely and needful. The erection of Morrill Hall has enabled us to provide well for the work of zoology, entomology, and geology. For these branches of science it provides ample recitation, laboratory and depository room. The basement is well utilized by a flourishing gymnasium and rooms for the preparation of subjects in natural history and the display of fishes. This building makes pleasing accommodation for the exhibit of the museum and scientific collections in geology and natural history. We have provided a gem of a chapel that aids greatly in the social, intellectual and moral phases of our college work. The crowning service of Morrill Hall is its provision for a most admirable library room. The room is well located, cheerfully lighted and tastefully furnished, making one of the most inviting rooms of the kind in the state. Morrill Hall has enabled us to make much desired improvement in the Main building...

"By the advice of the architect the walls in Morrill Hall were left one year with just the first rought coat of plaster. These should now be finished with fresco."

"We are getting on temporarily with the gymnasium in the basement of Morrill Hall, but this room is too low and too cramped to meet the very vital needs for instruction in gymnastics..." (12).

The working drawings show the room titles, giving an idea how the building was planned for use. The central stair hall divides the building into two portions, and the north wall of the stair hall is a fire wall. Doorways penetrating that wall are protected by fire doors at each side of each opening. The portion of the building to the south of the stair hall consisted of one open space at each level. At the basement was the armory, the library was at the first floor, the chapel occupied the second floor, and its balcony the third. The chapel seating was arranged on semicircular arcs that faced the platform in the northwest corner of the room, and the floor sloped up toward the rear of the room. The front curve of the balcony followed a similar arc. The rooms to the north of the stair hall, and separated from the rest of the building by the fire wall, were those used for instruction in the sciences. At the basement level were rooms labeled Alcohol, Alcohol Specimens, Insects, Birds, and Taxidermy. On the first floor, the north portion of the building contained rooms labeled Special Laboratory, General Laboratory, Lecture Room, Office, and Insects. The second-floor north rooms were labeled Minerals, Iowa Animals, and Miscellaneous. The whole third-floor of the

north portion was labeled Museum. Just west of the stair hall there were groups of rooms at each floor: a Store Room at the basement; a Vestibule, Wardrobe, and Music Room at the first floor; an Organ Room (opening on to the Chapel) and an Ante-and-Music Room on the second floor; and a Photographic Room on the third floor. The chimneys located at the four corners of the north portion connect to ventilation registers in most of the rooms of the building (3). The building contained no boiler room and no fireplaces, but its boilers and those of the College Building were located in a common boiler room in back of the College Building (12.1).

6. Known alterations and additions: In May 1897 the Building Committee reported to the Board of Trustees: "Your committee find that the roof truss of Morrill Hall is defective in plan and construction, and recommend...the speedy remedy of the weakness" (2, 5-18-97). Presumably the repairs were made.

When the College Building (Main Building) underwent the fires of 1900 and 1902, it was necessary to erect temporary boilers for heating Morrill Hall, because the central heating for both buildings had been in the boiler room at the rear of the College Building. It was realized then that a central heating plant for the college would have obviated such difficulties (13; 14).

As the result of a petition signed by professors and assistant professors, permission was granted in 1905 to

use the room in the southeast corner of the basement of Morrill Hall for a barber shop (2, 4-19-05).

In 1911 connection to the city electrical system was mentioned in order to have electric lights available in college buildings in case of fire (2, 5-11-05).

Proudfoot, Bird and Rawson, architects, of Des Moines prepared drawings dated September 1913 for remodeling of the first floor and the basement of the south portion of the building. The basement was converted into a file room, with an office at the southeast corner (apparently displacing the barber shop); and the first floor, where the library had been, was subdivided into a classroom and five offices (4).

A newspaper clipping dated 28 August 1930 noted:
"At the present time [Morrill Hall] is being used to house the offices of the extension department of the college. The old assembly or chapel room is being used to hold county agent and county tour meetings. The library is gone, but the old museum still remains...It is peculiarly designed, differing radically from any other on the campus" (16).

Sources of Information

Primary or unpublished sources.

- (1) Iowa State Agricultural College and Farm. Minutes of the Board of Trustees. Dates as indicated, from 1889 to 1895.

- (2) Iowa State College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts.
Minutes of the Board of Trustees. 1896 to 1905. Dates
as indicated.
- (3) Working drawings titled (on Sheet No. 1) Morrill Hall.
Josselyn and Taylor, Architects, Cedar Rapids, Iowa.
Blueprints, 12 sheets.
- (4) Working drawings titled "Alterations to Morrill Hall".
Proudfoot, Bird and Rawson, Architects, 810 Hubbell
Bldg., Des Moines. Blueprints, 2 sheets.

Secondary or published sources.

- (10) Iowa State Agricultural College and Farm. Twelfth
Biennial Report (1886-1887).
- (11) -----, Thirteenth Biennial Report (1888-1889).
- (12) -----, Fourteenth Biennial Report (1890-1891).
- (12.1) -----, Fifteenth Biennial Report (1891-92).
- (13) Iowa State College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts.
Nineteenth Biennial Report (1900-1901).
- (14) -----, Twentieth Biennial Report (1902-1903).
- (15) Withey, Henry F. and Withey, Elsie Rathburn. Biographi-
cal Dictionary of American Architects (Deceased), Los
Angeles: New Age, 1956.
- (16) Newspaper clipping dated 28 Aug. 1930 (Ames Intelligencer?)

ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

Condition of Fabric

There is exterior deterioration of brick and stone surfaces in
several places, and also there are a number of settlement cracks

easily visible. The interior finish presents a soiled, worn appearance where remodeling has not been done. The structure of the building appears to be sound.

Detailed Description of Exterior

1. Overall dimensions: 131'-8" by 63'-9".
2. Number of bays: not applicable.
3. Number of stories: three.
4. Layout, shape: rectangular, divided by a fire wall into two portions.
5. Foundations: the foundations are masonry, 1'-8" thick, with a 4" cavity. The interior wythe and the exterior wythe below grade are brick. The upper 6 feet of the exterior wythe (that is, the portion exposed above grade) is coursed rough-faced masonry of a white-gray color, except that on the west (rear) of the building the exposed portion of the foundation wall is brick, the transition being made at the corners by carrying the stone around the corners on to the west wall as quoins.
6. Wall construction, finish and color: walls are of running-bond smooth-faced (and unevenly weathered) brick of a color varying from light to dark red. At the eaves level there is a narrow belt course of rock-faced stone, round in profile (torus), that is continuous around the building except for one interruption by the large chimney on the west. Voussoir bricks and the molded bricks of moldings are a harder faced, darker red brick and are set

in red mortar. Mortar in the principal areas of the wall is uncolored in some places, red in others.

7. Structural system, framing: exterior and interior masonry bearing walls, interior round iron columns, and timber floor and roof framing.
8. Porches, stoops, bulkheads, etc: on the east side (front) of the building is a flat-roofed porch section projecting approximately nine feet from the surface of the main structure and extending south and intersecting a thirty-foot diameter tower at the southeast corner of the building. This flat-roofed section contains an outdoor entry area accessible by eight stone steps through an arched opening. From the entry area one may go north through double doors to a vestibule or south through double doors to a stairway leading up directly to the second floor. The brick wall of this section is capped with a course of stone similar to the belt course of the main structure. At the top of the wall is a band with alternating panels of stone and panels made up of square terracotta units. These are brick-red color and are surfaced with a design of intersecting circles. The north six units on the east side have been replaced by brick. The four smooth-faced stone panels are inscribed, reading from left to right, "Library", "Morrill Hall", and "Museum" and they are located directly above the four arches in the wall. A smooth-faced keystone of stone is inscribed "1890".

At the southwest of the tower there is an exterior entrance at the basement level accessible by means of concrete steps extending down a half flight from ground level. The steps are contained within concrete retaining walls which are tangential to the circular wall of the tower.

On the west side of the building is a brick service entry approximately eight feet wide and eight feet high, projecting fifteen feet from the building, and covering an interior concrete ramp to the basement level. The brick of this projection appears to be an attempted match of that of the main building, but is brighter in color. The exterior paneled wood double doors have two-inch wide wood jambs and a four-inch high wooden lintel. The entry is roofed with a flat concrete slab.

9. Chimneys: four ventilation chimneys are located at the four corners of the north section of the building and vary somewhat in size, none being disproportionately large or small. They are of brick, matching the coursing and color of the exterior walls. The chimneys are ornamented with stone and brick belt courses, corbeling, and panels of brick-colored terra cotta with surface decorations and are capped with stone.
10. Doorways and doors: the entrance to the outdoor entry area or porch is a arched opening ten feet wide and approximately fifteen feet high. It has a stone impost and a brick belt course about a foot below it. The arch

has brick voussoirs of the tapering form of true voussoirs, and a stone keystone inscribed "1890". The exterior main entrance doors are of wood with five and six panels and glass lights of more than double-panel size. The head and jambs are wood and the lintel is a flat brick arch.

11. Windows: window openings are of two types -- arched and tall rectangular. Arched windows have true, tapering voussoirs of red brick. Window frames are of wood with wooden mullions dividing the space into thirds. Sash and casements are wood, some with muntins, and are painted a cream color. All have clear glass except the stair-landing window, which has some very pale colored glass. All have rock-faced stone sills. The stone impost of the entry arch extends to each side for the arched window openings, tying those elements together visually. Wood transom bars carry the line of the impost across the windows. The tall rectangular windows are located on all sides of the building, singly or in groups of four or five. The wood frames and sash of these windows are painted a cream color, and the sash are double-hung -- 1/1, 2/2, or 3/3, with all muntins vertical -- depending on the width of the window. Many have flat brick arches and all have rough-faced stone sills. The window groups have brick piers above continuous stone sills. In several cases, there is a shaped sheet metal lintel, which has embossed rosettes over each brick pier.

12. Roof shape and covering: the roof shape is basically that of a hip roof, with projecting gables at the third floor, a conical roof at the tower, and a flat roof at the porch projection. The roof covering is gray slate, except for built-up roofing at the flat roof. Flashing is painted brick-red color. At the fire wall separating the north and south portions of the building a stone cap surmounts the low visible projection of fire wall above the surface of the roof.
13. Cornice, eaves: above the stone belt course at the eaves is a cornice of several courses of molded brick, which supports a sheet-metal gutter. The porch-projection low parapet-wall is capped in rough-faced stone. All gutters, leaders, and embossed "cornice-work" metal are painted to match the color of the brick.
14. Dormers, cupola, and towers: the large gables at the north portion of the third floor function as dormers, providing wall space for large windows for what was originally the Museum. These have the gable wall raised slightly above the level of the roof, and this sloping edge of the wall is capped with stone. On the west side of the roof, a hipped dormer serves the same third floor room. At the south portion of the building there are three raised gables that light the auditorium (originally the Chapel). Here the walls of the gable (the tympana) are sheathed with slates cut to expose a hexagonal form. These slates are now painted brick red, but in historic

photographs of the building they show a pattern of several horizontal stripes. The walls below these gables are set a few inches forward from the walls surrounding them and have terra cotta panels with a surface pattern of frets and of intersecting circles. At the highest ridge of the roof is a small eight-sided cupola of shaped sheet metal with red slated pointed roof and red slated base. The roof ridges of the building have a shaped sheet-metal cresting in the form of a series of scallop shapes, and the metal is painted brick red.

Detailed Description of Interior

1. Floor plans: The building is laid out in two portions separated by a fire wall. The south portion includes the porch projection, tower, a large two-story auditorium on the second floor, and an adjacent stairway and hallway. The north portion is almost square in plan and comprises approximately one third of the volume of the building. All its floors, including the basement, contain office space. The south portion contains mainly office space on the basement and first floor levels, but a few offices have been made in the large auditorium, which now serves as a two-story choral room. These offices utilize space on the balcony (third floor) and under it (second floor).
2. Stairways: The main stairway is located just south of the main fire wall and is accessible through double doors from the vestibule, which is just north of the open porch

area. The stairs are wood, covered with green floor tile. The handrail is varnished while the newel posts, balusters, stringers, wainscot, and other woodwork are painted a cream color. The stair which leads from the porch to the second floor auditorium by way of the tower is of exposed wood with a varnished handrail and wainscott. This stair has a few winders at the top as the stair enters the tower. There is a short section of railing and a newel post at the top of the stair which is also varnished. Also there is a narrow curved staircase which leads from the second-floor landing to the third-floor balcony. It is open on one side and hugs the inside wall of the tower. The steps are exposed wood, but otherwise all parts are varnished.

3. Flooring: Wood flooring on wood joists is used throughout except the basement floor, which is concrete. Most floors are covered with floor tile, typically green. The exposed wood at the steps reveals that fairly narrow flooring boards were used.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: Walls and ceilings are generally plaster painted white. There are some suspended acoustical tile ceilings in the basement. Others there show that they are of the same tongue-and-groove boards as commonly used in the wainscoting and are painted cream. The ceiling in the choral room is covered with white acoustical tile, and the walls are painted pale aquamarine.

5. Doorways and doors: Interior doors are typically wood with five panels. Office doors have glass transom panels divided into four lights. Jamb and head trim is of plain wood edged in a triple bead molding on the outside and an ogee molding on the inside. The base of the jamb is a separate block approximately eight inches high. Entry doors to the auditorium have an added narrow panel with widely spaced rosettes in the head of the doorframe. Above this is the typical projecting wood cornice molding. The doors and frames in the auditorium are varnished dark brown.

Fire doors are located between the north and south sections on all floors. There is also a fire door on a minor fire wall south of the hallway on the first floor, which slides on over head tracks, as does the fire door in the basement. The remaining fire doors are hinged and swing away from the main hallway. These doors are made up of separate twelve by eighteen inch metal sheets with flat interlocking seams. These fire doors appear to be standard metal-covered wood fire doors, as the visible nailhead confirm. Fire-door openings have embedded pipe used as a bead molding to protect the opening corners at head and jambs. Doors and frames are painted cream color.

6. Special decorative features: The balusters on the auditorium balcony are varnished and are similar in design to the stair balusters. Their end sections are square, with

a central round section with groups of double-bead and triple-bead rings, which are recalled in the triple-bead molding door trim. Triple bead molding is also used to terminate all wainscoting, and some newel posts have similar double and triple bead rings.

The lower portions of the trusses at the auditorium ceiling are paneled. The surfaces of the east and west gables of the auditorium have board and batten infill.

7. Notable hardware: Hardware on exterior doors and some interior doors appears to be original. Handles are of a simple floral or shell design where they attach to the door. Double-swinging doors between the vestibule and the hallway have exposed springs that appear to be original. The handrail brackets at the auditorium stairway are much more elaborate than the rather plain hardware used elsewhere in the building. Butt hinges at the first-floor entrance are set so that the opened door will have its hinge stile inclined away from the building at the bottom, thereby using gravity to close the door.
8. Mechanical equipment: Steam pipes and radiators are exposed throughout the building. Fluorescent lighting is suspended from the auditorium ceiling. There are no heating, lighting or plumbing fixtures of note in the building. An automatic fire sprinkler system has been installed. The chimneys and floor registers were an attempt to ventilate the building by drawing air through it without the use of power-driven fans.

Site and Surroundings

1. General setting: The axis of the building is north and south with the main facade facing east toward the open, landscaped "central campus" of the university and with Morrill Road curving closely around the east side.

The building is located north of Beardshear Hall (the administration building) and south of the University Library. A service drive separates Morrill Hall from the "Hub", a small student-services building, which is located just to the west. Morrill Hall is immediately surrounded by planting of large shrubs with large trees a little further away.

2. Historic landscape design: The large adjacent "central campus" is a notable example of Romantic landscape design in the Olmstead tradition.
3. Out buildings: None.

Prepared by Wesley I. Shank

Iowa State University, 1972

Edited for HABS by Druscilla J. Null 1983